



GRANT RECIPIENT
LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND
RECREATION

YEAR
2005

COUNTY
LAKE

CATEGORY
LOW COST CONSTRUCTION

GRANT AWARD
\$49,850

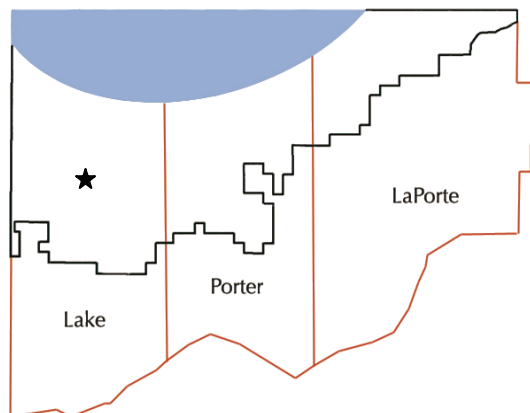
LOCAL SHARE
\$50,000



Oak Ridge Prairie County Park Site Enhancement

While Lake County Parks is committed to environmental restoration, invasive plants continued to threaten three areas within the park. All invasive trees and shrubs were removed during the dormant season according to size and condition. Methods included cutting with a chainsaw or machete and cutting with a tractor-mounted rotary mower. Foliar treatment of resprouts occurred in late spring and early summer following mechanical removal operations. By funding the removal of invasive plants, the park's visitors now benefit by having access to a previously impenetrable shrub layer. With improved access and sustainable health, nature study, hiking and other forms of recreation are now possible.

Oak Ridge Prairie County Park is owned and managed by the Lake County Parks and Recreation Department and consists of a variety of native and restored ecological areas. The western 250 acres is black sand prairie. 130 acres were restored in the early 1980's soon after the property was acquired. While the eastern portion, surrounding three sides of the fishing lake, contains wet remnant prairie, young hardwood forest and high quality remnant oak savanna. Oak Ridge Prairie also serves as the current western trail head for the Oak Savannah multi-use trail. Our newly constructed bike trail extends eastward to the Porter county line where it becomes the Prairie Duneland Trail.



RESULT: Restored 45 acres of wet remnant prairie, hardwood forest and high quality remnant oak savanna.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
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